



**NOTICE OF 30-DAY PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD
FORMER SODETAL USA SITE
110 Milacron Drive, Fountain Inn, South Carolina.**

The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) announces a 30-day period for citizens to comment on a potential Voluntary Cleanup Contract for the FORMER SODETAL USA. The contract, **VCC-05-5633-NRP**, will be between DHEC and a purchasing group comprised of “ARE Holdings, LLC” and Appalachian Engineered Floors, Inc. The contract will allow the Purchasers to purchase the property as a Brownfields site, which may have environmental pollution resulting from past practices. The Purchasers did not create the pollution, but wish to buy the property and voluntarily clean it up for reuse. If this contract is implemented, DHEC will not hold the Purchasers liable under State Superfund laws for pre-existing contamination in exchange for performing work under the Voluntary Cleanup Program. If contamination has spread off of the property, State law will not allow affected parties to file suit against the Purchasers for the past operations; however, legal action may be pursued against any former owners or operators.

The Brownfields site being purchased by the Purchasers consists of 63 acres on the north side of Milacron Drive. The property was developed for industrial use in 1980 and was originally used to manufacture machinery until 1995, when Sodetal acquired the plant and converted it to a wire manufacturing process. The original manufacturing process involved various metal-grinding operations and used solvents that were stored in large tanks at the plant. During the course of manufacturing, chemicals spilled and leaked from several process areas. Environmental investigations on the property have found evidence of soil and groundwater contamination with metals, solvents, and petroleum by-products.

The Purchasers intend to convert the existing building into corporate offices, show rooms, warehouses, and research and development areas for solid wood and laminated wood flooring products. Due to the environmental pollution at the site, the Purchasers wish to enter into a contract under DHEC’s Voluntary Cleanup Program. Under the proposed contract, the Purchasers will test samples of soil and groundwater. If contamination is found, the Purchasers will address contaminated soil to meet industrial standards and may be required to take additional steps to protect human health and the environment based on the laboratory findings. The proposed contract is available at <http://www.scdhec.gov/lwm/html/public.asp>. Printed copies may be obtained from the DHEC Freedom of Information Office at (803) 898-3882.

DHEC promotes redevelopment and revitalization of Brownfields sites across the state so that these properties do not remain idle or become abandoned. Public comments on proposed Brownfields contracts assist DHEC in balancing the environmental and redevelopment issues in the best interest of the state. Any comments or questions may be directed to Jo Cherie Overcash, Project Manager, email overcajc@dhec.sc.gov, telephone (803) 896- 4019, or Craig Dukes, Brownfields Public Information Coordinator, email dukescv@dhec.sc.gov, TOLL-FREE telephone (866) 576-3432, both at SCDHEC – Bureau of Land and Waste Management, 2600 Bull Street, Columbia, SC

29201. Citizens may provide written, email, or telephone comments on the Former Sodelal USA Site proposed contract until January 10, 2006.